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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 157  
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kingston Lions Club  
Secretary, Henry D. Wattenbarger, for forty-five  
years of meritorious service.

WHEREAS, the International Association of Lions Clubs began as the dream of Chicago  
insuranceman Melvin Jones, who wondered why local business clubs could not expand their  
horizons from purely business concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at  
large; and

WHEREAS, Henry D. Wattenbarger has followed the motto of the group "We serve." He  
served admirably as Secretary of the Kingston Lions Club for forty-five productive years. He  
was sponsored for membership in the club by Dr. J. Alfred Ferguson in 1949, and became  
secretary in July 1950, a position he has held continuously except for a year when he served as  
President of the group in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wattenbarger has reached numerous goals in Lionism that are  
important to the Club. He has a perfect forty-eight year record of attendance, has never missed  
or been late on a monthly report to International and district officials, has sponsored forty-three  
members for membership in the club, and is recipient of the prestigious Senior Master Gold Pin.  
From all available records, he is probably the longest serving secretary in the United States and  
the world. He is appropriately the same age as Lions International, both being born in 1917;  
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WHEREAS, Lion Wattenbarger has won numerous awards from the Lions International, the state, the district, and the local club. The most outstanding of them has been

“Lion of the Year” for the district and state in 1975; “Lion of the Decade” for both the district and state in 1983; “Life Membership” in 1987; “Award of Excellence” in 1990; the distinguished “Melvin Jones Fellow Award” in 1991; “Secretary of the Year” in 1995; and “Secretary of the Year” again in 1996; and

WHEREAS, this tireless worker has faithfully served the Kingston Club, the District and International for more than forty-eight years, compiling an exemplary record of service to Lionism. He has always cooperated and communicated with all officials and participated in practically all Club, State and District meetings. As a result of his exemplary efforts, the Kingston Club has always received high marks in various contests, and the Club has consistently won distinction and praise from members and leaders; and

WHEREAS, Past President Robert S. Parker, III, wrote in his recommendation for Lion Henry's “Lion of the Decade” Award that, “Lion Henry surely has Christ in his heart and his heart in Lionism”. The State wrote in their award that “we will have to search for a long time before finding one who is more devoted to Lionism”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wattenbarger has been a faithful servant of God through his active membership in the First Baptist Church of Kingston since 1941, where he served as Deacon, Church Clerk, and Sunday School Teacher. He also helped organize the Big Emory Baptist Deacons Union and has served expertly as its President for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, a 1940 graduate of the University of Tennessee School of Agriculture, he worked for the United States Department of Agriculture before retiring in 1977. He was widely praised for the excellent quality of his work and diligent service, and was specially recognized with excellent ratings, and by receiving the Government's Superior Service Award in 1951; and

WHEREAS, he has been a Mason since 1944, served as Past Master, and for 29 years has been Secretary of Union Lodge #38; and

WHEREAS, he strongly believes and practices the Golden Rule and has never been blind to the needs of others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wattenbarger has three successful children, Lloyd, who teaches Spanish and Drama at Oak Ridge High School; Marjorie, who is a University of Tennessee Extension Service Leader in Anderson County; and Ann, who is employed with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we take the occasion of April 4, 1997, the fiftieth anniversary of the Kingston Lions Club, to recognize the exemplary service of Mr. Wattenbarger to the Lions group, his community, state, nation and the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Henry D. Wattenbarger and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.